

ABSTRACT

AL-IA-065

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(144)
Piney Grove, Maryland vicinity
Public/private

1767 (mound of earth)
1767 first set 1902 (crownstone)

Milestone No. ---(144) marks a point on Mason and Dixon's West Line about **137.684** horizontal miles west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile boundary, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. It is an original crownstone of 1767, ^{was} among those found unused in the vicinity of Clear Spring, Maryland, and was first set ^{during the 1900-05 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary,} in 1902, in the center of a large mound of earth on Town Hill Ridge, in the remains of an original cairn erected by Mason and Dixon in 1767. The crownstone is an embellished oolitic limestone post, quarried and carved in England, measures close to 12 inches square and stands about 2 feet high above the mound. It is in fair condition, though the Penn and Calvert shields are barely discernible and nearly all the fluting and margins are gone. All surfaces are badly weathered, and the top has been damaged by the cementing of a USC&GS triangulation station disk (MARPENN 1941) into the apex. On the national and state levels, this monument and mound are significant primarily as among the 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments and 45 mounds in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as among the only 8 original monuments and 9 mounds of 1767, ^{out of 37 markers now} along the present Allegany/Fulton-Bedford-Somerset county boundary, the monument and mound are also significant as being among the diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Survey No. AL-IA-065

Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)
HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE, "Post" and "Leap of Earth" on "The Top of Town Hill"
AND/OR COMMON
MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. --- (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 144)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)
STREET & NUMBER off the east side of East Shipley Road on Town Hill ridge
CITY, TOWN Piney Grove ☒ VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 6 / PA: 9
STATE Maryland COUNTY MD: Allegany / PA: Fulton/ Bedford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER state boundary marker

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (monument and mound only; see Thematic Group N.R nomination form)
NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Telephone #:
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (see Thematic Group NR nomination form)
and surrounding property ownership list) Liber #:
COURTHOUSE Folio #:
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)
TITLE Allegany County Historic Sites Inventory
DATE AL-IA-065 entered 6/2/81 ☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust
CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE (mound)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First set 1902 (monument)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. --- (144) of Town Hill ridge
 137.684 / horizontal miles west
 of the northeast corner of Maryland (140 miles and 54 chains from
 and about 5 1/2 miles west of Sidelings Hill)
 the Post Marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field. It is an original crownstone of 1767,
 first in 1902 in the center of a large mound of earth and stones of 1767. It is in fair
 condition, stands about 2 feet high above the mound, is unaltered (although the
 cementing in of a USC&GS triangulation station disk into the apex has damaged
 the top).

The area here is a wind-swept, remote, densely wooded, narrow high mountain ridge (Town Hill). The site is within Election District 1 of Allegany County, MD, and marks the southern corner of Fulton and Bedford counties, PA; about 1 mile north of the scattered settlement of Piney Grove, MD; about 2000 feet north-northeast off East Shipley Road from the junction of West Hartley Road, at the end of a private lane following the ridge; at a point about 20 feet south of the old pipeline (no longer maintained but still discernible), at the north end of a long tangled mass of deciduous trees all blown over. It cannot be seen from any road or the lane and not readily from the pipeline any season. It seems well protected by this remoteness.

The crownstone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an oolitic limestone post with no longer a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, originally measuring about 12 inches square by about 4 feet or more in length, cut to stand about 3 feet high with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing embellishments are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the stylized shields of the Penn family coat of arms on the north side facing Pennsylvania and that of the Calvert family on the south side facing Maryland, near the top. This crownstone is one of only two along the Allegany/Fulton-Bedford-Somerset county part of the West Line; was set in the mound during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey as a substitute for the wood post originally erected by Mason and Dixon in 1767 but long since gone. It presently measures close to 12 inches square, and though it stands higher than most, is not its fully-intended height and is slightly out of plumb. All surfaces are very weathered and the shields are barely discernible, with part of the Calvert shield broken away. No fluting or margins remain except on the west side. The top has been grossly damaged by the cementing in of a USC&GS triangulation station disk (MARPBN 1941); and the top corners are badly chipped. The mound is distinct and most of it believed original, though partly rebuilt in order to set the stone.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (see Thematic Group 12 nomination form for full descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION	
1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE	
1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	—ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
X 1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER	
X 1800-1899	—COMMERCE	X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION	
X 1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		—INVENTION		boundary surveying	

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (mound of earth) SURVEYORS
 1767 (crownstone, first set 1902) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. ---(144) is a crownstone and the mound into which it is set are significant on the national and state levels primarily as among the 135 original Mason and Dixon mounds and 421 mounds group series of some 248 markers still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. This part of the line was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, and the cairn (mound of earth with wood post) erected in 1767. The crownstone, an original of 1767, was brought from those found in the vicinity of Clear Spring, MD, during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary to replace the wood post which had long ago disappeared. Locally, as one of only 8 original monuments and one of only 9 original mounds, it is significant as among the diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Artemas (Maryland-Pennsylvania-West Virginia), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1950 photorev. 1974, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 72444, northing 440002

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Allegany

STATE Pennsylvania

COUNTY Fulton/Bedford

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

9/19/81 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

(301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MGS: MASON EDIXON WEST LINE MARKER SURVEY 1919-81
(MD-PA BOUNDARY)

AL-IA-065

MASON EDIXON

ARTEMAS QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA-WEST VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 PAW PAW 15' QUADRANGLE

1:50 PHOTOREV. 1974 SCALE: 1" = 2000'

410,000 FEET (MD.)

5363 IV SE (AMARANTH)

ALLEGANY CO

(22)



1722

1723

8°22'30"

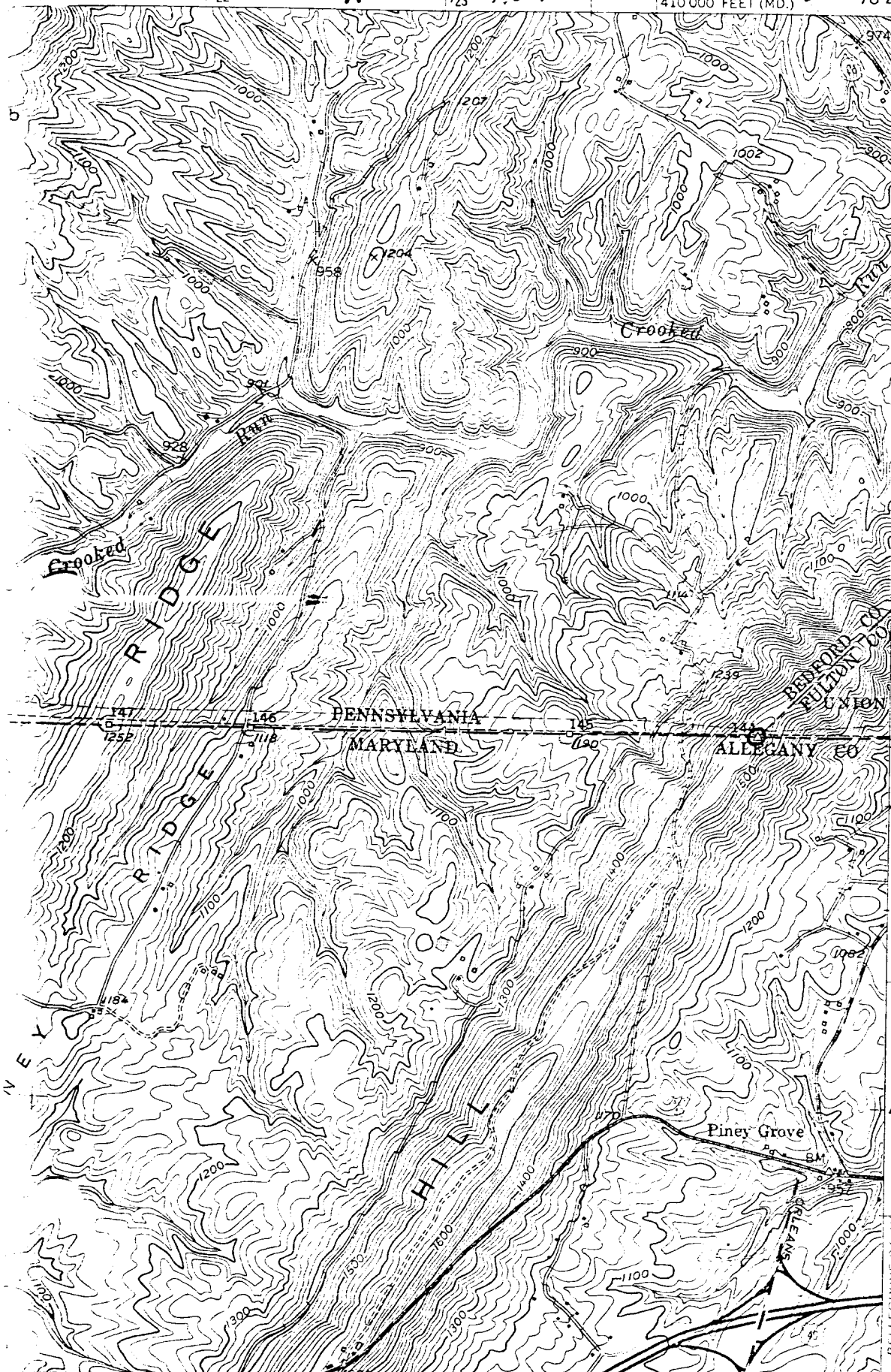
39°45'

4403
700 000 FEET
(MD.)

(144) MOUND OF EARTH
(SILT-RED Limestone)

(145) ———
MID SET 1902

(146) ———
MID SET 1902



BELLE GROVE 2.6 MI
HAGERSTOWN 4.0 MI



MHT

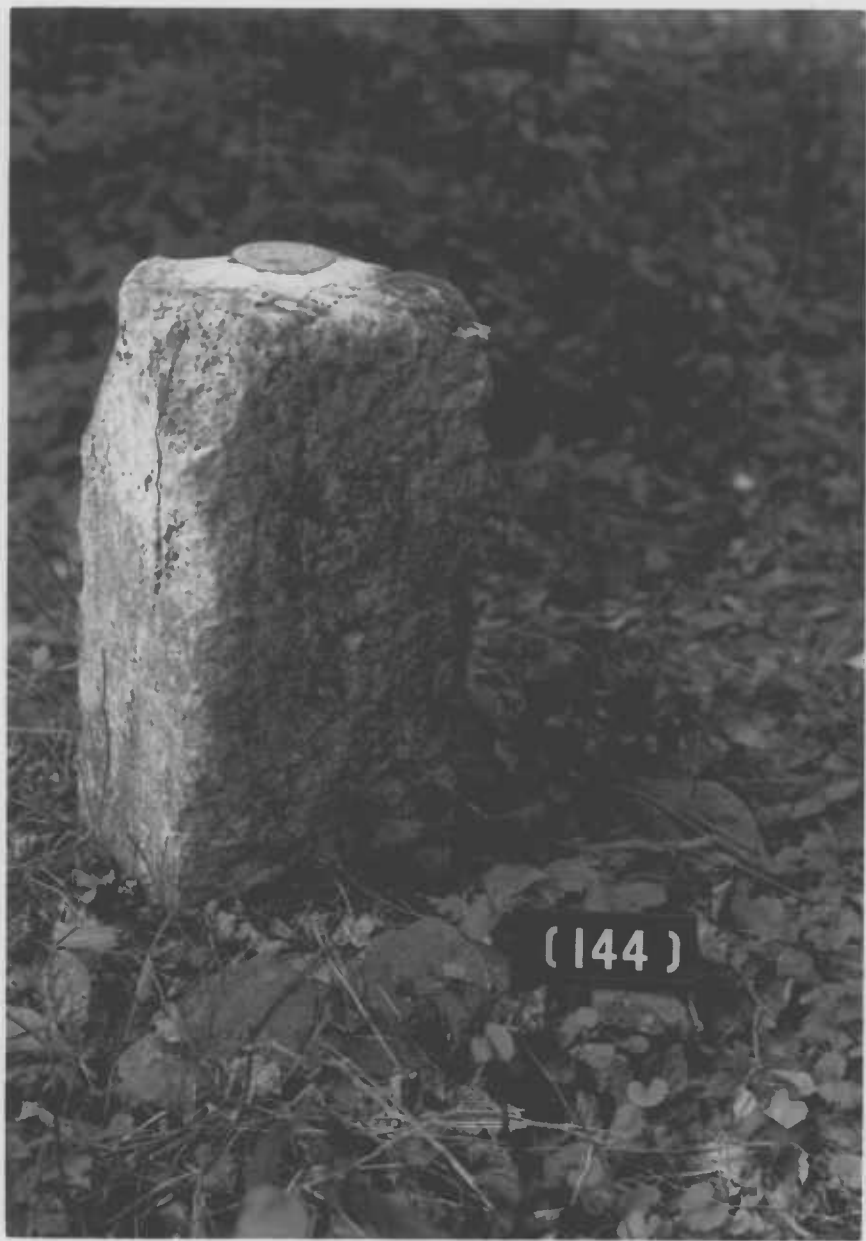
AL-IA-665

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE — (144)

ORIGINAL CROWNSTONE (1767) FIRST SET 1902,
IN MOUND OF EARTH & STONES

NW CORNER (PENN COAT OF ARMS) —

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 9/18/81 (1981.34.4A)



(144)

MHT

AL-IA-065

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE - (144)
ORIGINAL CROWNSTONE (1767) FIRST SET 1902,
IN MOUND OF EARTH & STONES

SE CORNER (BALVERT COAT OF ARMS/-)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 9/19/81 (1981.34.6A)